

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide our citizens & guests a safe environment in which to live and work, through a professional delivery of service, with a honest and fair police professional who exhibits the highest standards of professionalism.

## CORE VALUES

Honesty  
Teamwork  
Integrity  
Professionalism  
Respect



The Shelby Police Department is an  
Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement  
Agency



**Shelby Police Department**  
311 South Lafayette Street  
Shelby, North Carolina 28150  
Phone (704) 484-6845

## *WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE*

SHELBY POLICE DEPARTMENT



*JEFFREY H. LEDFORD*

CHIEF OF POLICE

## WHY THE POLICE STOP PEOPLE

Police officers are trained to detect and investigate violations of existing laws. Every situation is unique but some primary reasons for a stop may be:

- Moving traffic violations
- Criminal Investigations
- Equipment or safety concern about your vehicle
- Person(s) appear in need of assistance
- You are in the area where a crime just occurred
- You may fit the description of a suspect
- You have been pointed out as a witness or suspect
- You may have violated the law

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## IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE WHILE IN YOUR CAR

- Safely pull your vehicle to the far right shoulder of the road. If the vehicle is unmarked, and you are unsure if it is a legitimate law enforcement officer, indicate that you know they are behind you by using your turn signal or flashers and continue to drive (not speeding) to a place that you feel safe in, such as a convenience store or other well-lighted area.
- If the vehicle is unmarked, you can ask to see the officer's identification. If you are still uneasy, ask the officer to have

a marked police car respond, or call 911 your cell phone to verify the officer's identity.

- Sit calmly, with your hands visible on the steering wheel. If you have passengers, ask them to sit quietly with their hands visible.
- Remain in your vehicle.
- Turn on the vehicle's interior light during hours of darkness.
- Inform the officer if you have a weapon (gun, knife, rifle) and/or a concealed handgun permit.
- Follow the officer's instructions.
- Produce license and registration when requested.
- Tell the officer BEFORE reaching for an object, especially if it is tucked away in the glove box or some other place.
- Offer any explanations for your driving behavior before the officer returns to his/her vehicle.
- Don't become argumentative, disorderly, or abusive.

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## IF YOU ARE APPROACHED BY POLICE ON THE STREET

Innocent individuals are often stopped and questioned by police officers in the performance of their duties. We understand that delays may be inconvenient, and our goal is to always strive and make these encounters as unobtrusive as possible.

Many stops are initiated for one of the following reasons:

- You may be in the vicinity of a crime that has recently occurred.
- Your clothing might be similar or identical to that worn by the suspect of a crime.
- Someone may have called or pointed you out to the police; possibly concerned about your presence or that you looked "suspicious".
- You might be acting in a manner that the officer considers "suspicious" and you act even more suspicious after realizing the officer is observing you.

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## YOU MAY BE SEARCHED

Police officers may at any time request permission to search a person, vehicle or property. If permission is freely given, the officer may conduct a search as granted. You could also be searched for the following reasons:

- When arrested.
- When probable cause exists which indicates a law has been violated.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can contact Chief Ledford by phone at (704) 484-6855, or by email at [jeff.ledford@cityofshelby.com](mailto:jeff.ledford@cityofshelby.com)